WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring data of an electronic program guide;

electronic program guide display controlling means for controlling the display of said electronic program guide based on data of said electronic program guide acquired by said acquisition means;

selection means for selecting a preset program based on said electronic program guide controlled as to display by said electronic program guide display controlling means;

verifying means for verifying whether or not said program selected by said selecting means is a program of a channel that is receivable; and

output information controlling means for controlling the information output for having the viewer recognize that, if the program selected by said selection means is verified as not being a program of a channel that is receivable, said program is not receivable.

2. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said output information controlling means issues an alarm indicating that the program as selected by said selection means is not receivable.

3. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said output information controlling means displays a background picture if the program selected by said selection means is not receivable.

37

4. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

detailed information display controlling means for controlling the display of the detailed information of a program demonstrated in said electronic program guide.

5. An information processing method comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring data of an electronic program guide;

an electronic program guide display controlling step of controlling the display of said electronic program guide based on data of said electronic program guide acquired by processing in said acquisition step;

a selection step of selecting a preset program based on said electronic program guide controlled as to display by processing in said electronic program guide display controlling step;

a verifying step of verifying whether or not said program selected by processing in said selecting step is a program of a channel that is receivable; and

an output information controlling step of controlling the information output for having the viewer recognize that, if the program selected by processing in said selection step is verified as not being a program of a channel that is receivable, said program is not receivable.

6. A recording medium having recorded therein a computer-readable program, said program including an acquisition step of acquiring data of an electronic program guide;

an electronic program guide display controlling step of controlling the display

of said electronic program guide based on data of said electronic program guide acquired by processing in said acquisition step;

a selection step of selecting a preset program based on said electronic program guide controlled as to display by processing in said electronic program guide display controlling step;

a verifying step of verifying whether or not said program selected by processing in said selecting step is a program of a channel that is receivable; and

an output information controlling step of controlling the information output for having the viewer recognize that, if the program selected by processing in said selection step is verified as not being a program of a channel that is receivable, said program is not receivable.

7. An information processing apparatus comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring data of an electronic program guide;

first retrieval means for retrieving a program aired within a preset time as from the current time, based on the electronic program guide data acquired by said acquisition means;

second retrieval means for retrieving the program aired at the current time, from the electronic program guide data acquired by said acquisition means;

selection means for selecting one of retrieval by said first retrieval means and retrieval by said second retrieval means; and

electronic program guide display controlling means for controlling the display

39

of said electronic program guide based on retrieved results by said first retrieval means or retrieved results by said second retrieval means as selected by said selection means.

8. The information processing apparatus according to claim 7 further comprising:

designating means for designating a program to be received based on said electronic program guide controlled as to display by said electronic program guide display controlling means.

9. An information processing method comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring data of an electronic program guide;

a first retrieval step of retrieving a program aired within a preset time as from the current time, based on the electronic program guide data acquired by processing in said acquisition step;

a second retrieval step of retrieving the program aired at the current time, from the electronic program guide data acquired by processing in said acquisition step;

a selection step of selecting one of retrieval by processing in said first retrieval step and retrieval by processing in said second retrieval step; and

an electronic program guide display controlling step of controlling the display of said electronic program guide based on retrieved results by processing in said first retrieval step or retrieved results by processing in said second retrieval step as selected by processing in said selection step.

10. A recording medium having recorded thereon a computer-readable program, said computer-readable program comprising:

40

an acquisition step of acquiring data of an electronic program guide;

a first retrieval step of retrieving a program aired within a preset time as from the current time, based on the electronic program guide data acquired by processing in said acquisition step;

a second retrieval step of retrieving the program aired at the current time, from the electronic program guide data acquired by processing in said acquisition step;

a selection step of selecting one of retrieval by processing in said first retrieval step and retrieval by processing in said second retrieval step; and

an electronic program guide display controlling step of controlling the display of said electronic program guide based on retrieved results by processing in said first retrieval step or retrieved results by processing in said second retrieval step as selected by processing in said selection step.

11. An information processing apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving data of a program being aired;

program display controlling means for controlling the display of a program based on data received by said receiving means;

command means for commanding display of a chat; and

chat display controlling means for controlling the display of a chat window so that, when display of the chat is commanded by said command means, the chat window display is not overlapped with the program displayed.

12. The information processing apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising:

41

retrieval means for retrieving a chat room opened in association with a program displayed when said chat is commanded to be displayed by said command means; and

icon display controlling means for controlling the display so that an icon associated with said chat room retrieved by said retrieval means is opened in said chat window.

13. An information processing method comprising:

a receiving step of receiving data of a program being aired;

a program display controlling step of controlling the display of a program based on data received by processing in said receiving step;

a command step of commanding display of a chat; and

a chat display controlling step of controlling the display of a chat window so that, when display of the chat is commanded by processing in said command step, the chat window display is not overlapped with the program displayed.

14. A recording medium having recorded thereon a computer-readable program, said computer-readable program comprising:

a receiving step of receiving data of a program being aired;

a program display controlling step of controlling the display of a program based on data received by processing in said receiving step;

a command step of commanding display of a chat; and

a chat display controlling step of controlling the display of a chat window so that, when display of the chat is commanded by processing in said command step, the

chat window display is not overlapped with the program displayed.

15. An information processing apparatus comprising:

web information acquisition means for acquiring data of the web information;

program information acquisition means for acquiring data of the program information being television broadcast;

information display controlling means for controlling simultaneous display of said web information and the program information based on the data of the web information acquired by said web information acquisition means and the data of the program information acquired by said program information acquisition means; and

changing means for changing said program information to be acquired; in a state in which said web information and the program information are displayed simultaneously.

16. The information processing apparatus according to claim 15 wherein said changing means changes a broadcasting channel being received as said program information.

17. The information processing apparatus according to claim 15 wherein said changing means erases a broadcasting channel being received as said program information.

18. An information processing method comprising:

a web information acquisition step for acquiring data of the web information;

a program information acquisition step for acquiring data of the program information being television broadcast;

43

an information display controlling step for controlling simultaneous display of said web information and the program information based on the data of the web information acquired by processing in said web information acquisition step and the data of the program information acquired by processing in said program information acquisition step; and

a changing step for changing said program information to be acquired, in a state in which said web information and the program information are displayed simultaneously.

19. A recording medium having recorded thereon a computer-readable program, said computer-readable program comprising:

a web information acquisition step for acquiring data of the web information;

a program information acquisition step for acquiring data of the program information being television broadcast;

an information display controlling step for controlling simultaneous display of said web information and the program information based on the data of the web information acquired by processing in said web information acquisition step and the data of the program information acquired by processing in said program information acquisition step; and

a changing step for changing said program information to be acquired, in a state in which said web information and the program information are displayed simultaneously.

44